

1/40 -Commerce And Industry-S.G Smith, Hillsboro, W.Va. Pocahontas County.  
The Operations Of George Williams-

In 1902 George Williams of near Lobelia, Pocahontas County, W.Va bought a circular saw mill, his first operation was a set on Caesar Mountain for S.J Payne of Hillsboro who had bought a tract of timber from Sam & Sabina V. Wamsley for \$175.00 and they received in payment one horse at \$125. and a buggy at \$50.00 this contract was written August 4, 1902.

325.000 was cut at this set and upon completion moved to Seebert.

His next set was also for S.J Payne and the mill was set at what was known at that time as Carter Siding which is just below Seebert, W.Va the timber having been bought from many different people of Seebert and the surrounding territory. This operation started in April 1903 and run to May 1905.

Camps were built to take care of the men and barns were built to stable the horses, as Payne had one and two teams there most of the time besides the horses of Ellis McCarty of Hillsboro and K.O Wade of the Wade corner which is a section at the top of the Seebert hill.

The lumber was loaded in box cars of the C & O Railroad and shipped to many different sections, 400,000 was sawed at this set and Williams was sawyer on all of his operations.

From Seebert the mill was moved to Red Lick Mountain to saw for Smith and Whiting they having bought this tract of timber from W.H Shearer who lived on the head of Dry Creek above Onoto. In the Company were Captain A.E Smith and Jim Whiting.

There was 378 acres in this boundary and bounded as follows starting at the head of Dry Creek thence to the Silas Barlow line then to the line of I.M Argast and with the lines of S.B Likins and H.G Davis and then

.....was almost as fast.

I couldn't find anything much more.

Commerce And Industry-S.G Smith,Hillsboro,W.Va.Pocahontas County.

George Williams Operations Concluded.---

On the Gibson line, this tract was formerly owned by the Lynch Lumber Co.

This timber was deeded to Smith And Whiting March 21, 1906, they paid \$1700.00 for the boundary from which they sawed 400,000 feet of boards there was two sets .Upon completion of this operation Williams moved his mill back to the Little Levels District and over Caesar Mountain to his next set.

The 4th set was for J.E Peck on the farm known at that time as the Dr. J.D Thrasher farm and deeded by him to J.E and Effie Peck July 9, 1903.

The mill was set just under the top of Caesar Mountain on the Peck place and ready for operation, Peck had a team and did part of the skidding but he hired Harry and Frank Thompson of Millpoint to do part of the skidding.

John Boblett of Lobelia had the misfortune of having his hand cut off by the edger on this operation leaving him a cripple the rest of his life.

This operation took place in 1906 & 07 and they sawed 416,000.

#5-- The next set was for S.J Payne and took place on top of Caesar Mountain at the Dick Anderson farm and purchased from his widow Sally Anderson the farm is now owned by Wilford Bruffey.

This was operated in 1906 and 75,000 was saved at this set.

#6---- In 1906 George Williams sawed two sets for S.J Payne on Rush  
Run the timber was bought from Ambrose Hill *of near Lobelia.*

#7-- In 1906 & O' Williams sawed for W.W Kinnison on Bruffeys Creek  
part of this timber was logged from Kinnison's own farm the rest he bought  
from near by farmers.

#5---- In 1907 George Williams set his mill on the Cass McCoy farm on  
b Bruffey's Creek and sawed a set for W.W Kinnison .Kinnison having bought  
c what timber there was on it.

McCoys were on the McCoy farm, which when sawed was used by

... almost as fast.

almost as fast.  
I don't find

i couldn't find anything much written on

Commerce And Industry-S.G Smith, Hillsboro, W.Va. Pocahontas County.  
George Williams Concluded---

Kinnison in his carpenter work as W.W Kinnison contracted to build and constructed some of Pocahontas County's best and most expensive buildings among them were the Methodist Church at Marlinton, W.Va. The Hillsboro Grammar School and a residence in the Kinnison Addition of Hillsboro 1900/1911 and the Bank Of Hillsboro Building these were all brick buildings and constructed by Kinnison a resident of Hillsboro and near Lobelia, so most of the timber he bought and had sawed was used by him in the construction of buildings of some kind or other.

Information---George Williams 1900/1911 Hillsboro, W.Va. (R F D)  
Court Records, Marlinton, "

of  
at  
in  
of

at

in

Feb. 23, 1940

Ch. 4 Section 5a - 1

Nelle V. McLaughlin

Juanita S. Willsey  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County  
May 2, 1940

During the Industrial Period (1860-1910) the people of Pocahontas County repaired and reestablished their saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, and so forth, that they had established before the Civil War, then of course there were many new ones built and many of the old ones were under new management. These, however, were all small individual businesses just as they had been before the war. No great commercial industries were begun until 1876 when the St. Lawrence Boom and Lumber Company came into the county and began cutting the white pine, cherry and walnut and rafting it down the Greenbrier River to Ronceverte. Since Pocahontas was so abundant in these timbers, this became a very important industry. Practically all of the lumber taken from this county during the next twenty-five years was taken out in this manner.

While it became known that Pocahontas had small deposits of iron, and some marble nothing was done to develop an industry and no mineral rights were taken.

Since agriculture and grazing were the chief occupation and there was no coal, nor enough other minerals to attract corporations there was no struggle between the land owners and corporations. The land was still in the hands of the original owners or their families and was valued only for its timber, grazing and for the timber. Even yet many farmers continued to clear their fields and to roll the logs into piles and burn them not realizing that they were destroying what would have soon been worth a fortune to them.

As soon as the railroads were completed in 1901, the county began to improve for now, that transportation was available, lumber companies were anxious to open up this vast timber section. Lumber towns sprang up almost over night, but when the lumbering was done they disappeared almost as fast.  
... I couldn't find anyone

Feb. 23 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin

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There was once a man by the name of Henry Phillips who was looking over this land in the 1790. He engaged a surveyor, William Pooge of Marlins Bottom, and surveyed 41,000 acres at the headwaters of Greenbrier River. This survey took in most of that rich timber country. About the same time a Randolph County surveyor made a survey of 31,000 acres for Richard Smythe which interfered, and lapped on the 41,000 acres.

Henry Phillips having acquired this land paid little or no attention to it, not even paying the paltry taxes. With other large surveys it lay idle and useless.

The legislature of Virginia finding that such large grants hindered development, evolved the law of forfeiture. So in the 1830's and 1840's they began to cut up these lands and sell them for the benefit of the school fund. The Phillips 41,000 acres was thus disposed of to the highest bidders. It brought \$212.00 which was about the cost of surveying and selling it.

In the 1880's there was a law suit over this land because of the surveys of Phillips and Smythe. But it seems that the Smythe surveys called for a cypress and no cypress could be found in these high mountains. The work probably should have been cippus meaning a set stone. At any rate, Pocahontas county wrested from Randolph County this large territory.

This threw to Pocahontas county a big boundary of spruce and hemlock forest country so rich in timber as to render it worthless for anything else.

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On the titles based on this sale of forfeitures the land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 in one day for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing.

In 1903-1915 when the heavy growth of timber was being operated a number of towns sprang up and flourished for a while and disappeared. Among them: Wilkell, Gertude, May, Brancher, Madeline, Olive, Nida, Winterburn, Burner and Oxley. The Coal and Iron Railway. What a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. Town sprang up and drummers walked the railroad from one town to the next when the trains did not run to suit them. The above mentioned towns occupied the sixteen miles of river and railroad which lies between Durbin and where Randolph County begins at the divide.

This is now a part of the cold and barren which lies in Pocahontas. Where as it used to look stern and wild, it now looks wild and naked.

From Pocahontas Times - 1918 by Andrew Price  
The above towns were only a few of the lost towns of Pocahontas. During the lumbering days towns sprang up all along the Greenbrier River and then lost their importance or ceased to exist except in name, Sitlington, Clover Lick, Harter, Campbelltown, Stilwell. This was partly after 1910, however.

West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry..... Date 3/22/41

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken 3/14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21  
1941

Typist Samuel G. Smith Date Typed 3/21, 22, /41  
O.B. Curry, J.R. Guthrie & court records  
Source Marlinton.W.Va. Date Filed  
Jay And William Buckley.Buckeye.W.Va.  
Julian Arbuckle.Maxwelton.W.Va.

This Co. has all new men at present therefore had to contact former  
employees and information was hard to get.



41 Commercial And Industry, Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.  
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Cass.W.Va.

The W.Va.Pulp And Paper Co.began operation in 1900 and have been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was bought from Newton J Gum and at that time was being farmed by him.

The W.Va.Pulp And Paper Co.was made up by and with the following men John G Luke of Orange,N.Y and his sons William,now at Covington.Va .Al Luke,Charlie Luke and S.E Slaymaker and William Whitmer of Pa.Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co.was E.P Shafer for a long period and the present mgr.is S.D Huff,R.S Hickman was general mgr.of the Co.store and Burke McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as they had as high as 20 clerks besides the other stores at Spruce and Slattery Fork besides small stores at some of the coal mines .

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when they were operating the best of their timber,they had 14 log engines and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time,they had 10 to 12 loaders besides the steam skidders that they used on Elk and other sections XXXXX but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head. They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R.R was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R.R

at Va.Pulp And Paper Co.# 2 Page. S.G S. Pocahontas Co.  
or the G.C & E. with Robert Hivic as R R Supt.The railroad started at Cass  
went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near  
Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Bergoo,Slatyfork and vec,with a line  
up Elk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremans were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the  
druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr.,E.O Smith was store Mgr.at  
Slatyfork,Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commissarys for the Co.at  
different places,William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat.The wood supts,  
were Sol McNeely,Heaston Payne & Judson Taylor and John(Jack) Crookshanks,  
lumber graders J.R Guthrie and Mark Wood Gum,the postmasters have been Dr.Joe  
Ayers,Iske Clark and James Moyers the present P.M.,Merl Irvine conductor and  
train master,George Graham was in charge of the office R.W Fox bookkeeper and  
Leona Shippard office worker,John Hannah G.C.& E .R.R. Elmer Duncan shop cl-  
erk train master and office man,Joe Graves yard foreman,S.E Nethkin run the  
Company farm and operated the meat market for several years but the present  
farm manager is George Waugh,George Anderson was shovel man for the R R and  
another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman,Yard foreman Hob Rose.

The first Company doctor was Dr.Julian Arbuckle he was one of Gre-  
enbrier County,leading doctors after he left Cass,the present Dr. is Dr.U.H  
Hannah and their veterinary was Dr.F.C Nickel.

W.Va.Pulp & Paper Co.page # 3

The following were engineers on the O.C & E.R.R. some time or other  
George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Cromer, Ben Cameron, Sam Waugh, Frank Williams,  
Floyd Dorman, H.C Gilmore, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover  
Craddock-Red Stanley, C.W Odell was train dispatcher .Frank Imes was conductor  
on Cheat.James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the

T camps. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kenealey, Jean Kepner, Homer Brown,  
Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was  
*Frank Kepner*  
one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar  
Sanson. Joe Wooddell is town police. Herbert Shafer master mechanic and shop  
foreman, their electric welder man is Chalmers Shrader.

The W.Va.Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,  
*Ridge*  
000 acres besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of  
the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass,  
Back Mt, Cheat Mt, down Cheat River, Bergoo Creek, Slatyfork, Gauley Mt, Elk River  
and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30  
they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60  
a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the band mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and  
they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to their  
paper mill or to Luke Md to a paper mill there and on March 10. 1940 they  
had a big *fire* at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars

W.Va.Pulp & Paper Co.page # 4

worth of property and material, losing 70 million pounds of finished kraft  
and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E Steeley plant  
Supt. and Walter F Lunger mill chemist and dept. head were overcome with smoke  
and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Cass  
at what is called the Y, and here they made khaki dye the supt. was A. Molton.

The population of Cass at the present time is 800 but back a few years  
ago it had a population of 22,000 and at that time was the largest town in  
Pocahontas County, Cass has about 400 MM Company houses a school for the wh-  
ite population also a school for the colored, 3 churches and a large hotel  
that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management  
of Mrs. Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs. Heaster at different times they employed  
4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks, besides this establishment they had private hotels  
and restaurants on the east side across the river, and it was on east side  
where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders  
were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 sto-  
res a restaurant, a hotel and several privately owned houses.

The Co. had camps from Spruce to Bemis on the Western Maryland R R,  
most of the G.O & I R R was built by Italians and Austrians and these were  
known as the Bohunk camps.

W.Va Pulp And Paper Co. Page # 5  
During their operations coal was discovered and mines were opened up on top of Gauley Mt. between Bergoo Creek and Slatyfork this mine was operated until 1940. another mine was opened up below Spruce and was called the Hopkins mine, another was the Linan mine just below the Hopkins mine, and about 1920 Big John mine and Deer Lick mines were opened up, this was about the time they were lumbering up Fishing Hawk Creek this coal was mostly used by the Co. in their trains and at the town of Cass. You find coal on many of their holdings and no doubt some day these mines will be reopened and new ones opened up.

The W.Va Pulp And Paper Company beyond a doubt had the largest operations of any Co. operating in Pocahontas Co. and today they own several thousand acres of land but have sold several thousand acres to the government for reforestation purposes, their farming operations are very extensive as they have farm lands from just outside of Cass to the Greenbank road and along Deer Creek and you find land in high state of cultivation and some of the finest barns that are found in this section of the State and in these they winter from 2 to 300 head of cattle and back a few years ago they produced over 1,000 lambs a year.

The W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Operations in Pocahontas County have meant more to the growth of the county than any other operation that has taken place here as they not only furnished employment to the people but have helped

W.Va.Pulp & Paper Co.Pocahontas Co. Page # 6.S.G.Smith  
greatly in the way of taxation besides the towns that have sprung up  
namely Cass,Slatyfork, and Spruce besides scattered houses at these coal mi-  
nes at Hopkins mine, Linan mine, Deer Lick & Big John mines, at Spruce where th-  
ey had the pulp mill you found hundreds of acres of spruce trees as this is  
a cold place snow getting 2 to 3 feet deep.

During their 40 years of operating at Cass it is estimated they cut  
1.126,400.000 and about the same amount of pulp wood.most of the hardwood  
went to Luke Md.and it is estimated by one of their former lumber graders th-  
at they carried 16 million feet of lumber on the yards at a time.They had a  
planing mill and put out finished surfaced lumber in the way of siding,flo-  
oring and other dressed lumber that was mostly used locally in the county.

The Pocahontas Supply Co.store did a business of \$ 1200.000.00 a year  
business when they were in the best of the timber and when business was good.

The mill burned in 1924 but was rebuilt at once.

Cass today is a thriving lumber town that has meant a lot to Pocahon-  
tas County as it made a market for all the surplus farm commodities of the  
surrounding territory,payed enormous taxes that helped our county schools and  
government and furnished employment to thousands of her citizens this was  
Pocahontas County's largest operation and the payroll of the W.Va.Pulp and  
paper Co.was the largest of any in Pocahontas.The lumbering from about 1900  
to 1925 was the greatest industry in the County but since that time the oper-

W.Va.Pulp And Paper Co. Page # 7.S.S.8- Pocahontas Co.  
We have seen many smaller operations but the Government has bought thousands  
of acres of cut over land for reforestation purposes so in years to come it is  
hoped the lumber industry will be better than at the present time due to the  
reforesting.

The W.Va.Pulp And Paper Company hope to complete their operations  
at Cass in 2 or 3 years the present time they are just operating in order to  
furnish employment to the population of Cass.

Information-O.B. Garry, Marlinton, W.Va.

J.B. Guthrie. " "

Court Records. " "

Jay Buckley, Buckeye, W.Va.

Willie Buckley. " "

Julian Arbuckle, Marlinton, W.Va.

All the above worked for the Co. at some time or other but Arbuckle and his  
father was Co. Dr. for a time at Cass.

xx 1940

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West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry

Date 3/13/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 3/13/41  
& 3/12/41

Typist Smith

Date Typed 3/13/41

Source James Forney. Marlinton. W.Va.  
Court Records.

Date Filed                   

Some of the information was gotten before these dates but not completed  
until above dates.



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Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Second Ave.

Contract and industry. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro...Va. Pocahontas Co.

Williams And Pifer Lumber Co.

In 1917 was incorporated and L.H. Williams was Pres. and Gen. mgr. A.C. Pifer Vice Pres. and Dr. M.S. Wilson Secy and Treas, all of Marlinton, W. Va.

Their operations have been all over Pocahontas County and part of Greenbrier as they operated in 1917 on Spring Creek in Greenbrier Co. this was sawed by J.L. Howard of Buckeye and in 1920 they were operating on Laurel Creek. 1917 on Elk and in 1920 on Brushy Mt. Cummins Creek. Beaver Creek and until 1926 they were operating in the Huntersville District but in 1929 they bought two tracts of timber from F.P. Clark totaling 810 acres and in 1930 they bought a boundary of 60 acres of the John Gay est. on Bucks Run and in 1931 they bought a tract of 158 acres on the Dry Fork of Stony Creek from William D and Jessie Burgess of Laurel Creek. and since that time they have had their circular mill set in the upper part of the town of Marlinton and buying and trucking logs where ever they can buy any in connection with this mill they run a planer and sell building material already surfaced and ready for use.

When they were operating at capacity they used from 6 to 8 teams of horses to do the skidding had a log engine and 4 or 5 log trucks when they were operating on Laurel Creek and used from 3 to 4 trucks to haul lumber and logs.

Bert Roberts was their sawyer for quite a long time, and Alva Johnson is the present lumber grader and has been for several years.

Besides their lumbering operations they have a large store, in which they have their office, a general store a meat market with an experienced meat cutter in Clarence Jordan and Wimer store man assisted by hired help and besides this they distribute Conoco gasoline and oil in Pocahontas and Randolph County. This business was all built up from their lumbering operations of the last 24 years.

Information. James Forney, Marlinton, W. Va.

Court Records, Marlinton, W. Va.